

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 04699 310012Z

66

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 /029 W

----- 072749

R 301012Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3845

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SN

SUBJECT: STUDENT LEADER TAN WAH PIOW GOES UNDERGROUND

1. TAN WAH PIOW, FORMER UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE STUDENTS UNION (USSU) PRESIDENT, WAS RELEASED OCTOBER 24 AFTER SERVING EIGHT MONTHS IN JAIL FOR "RIOTING." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, TAN FAILED TO APPEAR FOR NATIONAL SERVICE INDUCTION ON OCTOBER 27 AS ORDERED. DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED SINGAPORE POLICE TO ARREST HIM ON SIGHT.

2. JAIL TERM APPARENTLY DID NOT DAMPEN TAN'S ENTHUSIASM FOR ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT ACTIVISM. ACCORDING TO "STATEMENT FROM TAN WAH PIOW" RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED BY USSU, HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE "THE STRUGGLE" AND TO RESIST GOS "PERSECUTION."

3. SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY APPEARS TO SYMPATHIZE WITH TAN. RECENTLY-ELECTED USSU COUNCIL IS DOMINATED BY TAN SUPPORTERS. SUNDAY NATION REPORTED THAT CAMPUS RALLY TO CELEBRATE TAN'S RELEASE WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 2,000 STUDENTS (1974 TOTAL ENROLLEMENT WAS 5,356).

4. COMMENT: AS EVIDENCED BY ITS EXPEDITIOUS INDUCTION ORDER, GOS IS ANXIOUS TO KEEP TAN OUT OF CIRCULATION. HE APPEARS TO BE A GENUINE IDEALIST WITH A GUTSY PUGNACITY REMINISCENT OF THE YOUNG LEE KUAN YEW. WHILE OTHER USSU ACTIVISTS SEEM TO AGREE WITH TAN'S CRITIQUE OF THE UNIVERSITY AS AN ELITIST

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 04699 310012Z

INSTITUTION CHURNING OUT DOCILE DIGITS TO OCCUPY FAVORED

POSITIONS IN AN UNJUST SOCIETY, ONE HAVE YET DEMONSTRATED THE
ABILITY TO FILL HIS SHOES AS CHARISMATIC LEADER AND SPARKPLUG
OF ACTIVISM.
HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTREMISTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP04699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750377-1041
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975105/aaaaaeda.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STUDENT LEADER TAN WAH PIOW GOES UNDERGROUND
TAGS: PINS, SN, (TAN WAY PIOW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006